

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

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evaluate phase
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MEMORANDUM

TO: John Swartwout
FROM: Lawrence Alden *LJA*
SUBJECT: NTU Circuits (#152086) - Delisting Petition

DATE: December 10, 1992

I have reviewed the Fanning, Phillips & Molnar petition to delist the NTU Circuits site in Babylon. My recommendation is to grant the petition to delist the site.

The site was probably originally placed on the Registry on the recommendation of the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) due to the numerous violations of NTU's SPDES permit. Since the contaminated leaching pools were cleaned out under the direction of SCDHS after NTU moved away from the site and no contamination attributable to the site could be found during the Phase II investigation, it seems that the site does not meet the definition of a hazardous waste site.

I closely studied the chlorinated solvents contamination found in the groundwater sampled for the Phase II, and conclude that the contamination is coming from other sources. My reasons are as follows:

1. NTU used only acids for cleaning their circuit boards rather than solvents. NTU's SPDES violations were mostly for inorganic contamination.
2. Solvents were found in upgradient monitoring well MW-1, which was installed as part of the Phase II.
3. Spectrum Finishing, a hazardous waste site adjacent to NTU, is known to have discharged waste between the two sites, where the leaching pools are located. Spectrum has used chlorinated solvents.
4. Monitoring wells at Spectrum suggest higher contaminant levels in the deeper part of the aquifer than the shallower. In addition, since the Spectrum Phase II wells have two screens in one riser, the potential for cross-contamination is high and the results are suspect, especially for the shallow part of the aquifer.

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5. A shallow groundwater sample collected during the recent plume investigation from the opposite side of Dale Street (across from NTU's and Spectrum's shared parking lot) showed 600 ppb of tetrachloroethene. This sample was not directly downgradient of NTU and strongly suggests that there are other sources of solvent contamination in the vicinity of the site.

I cannot recommend that the Spectrum Finishing site be expanded to include NTU Circuits at this time. If, during the remedial investigation of Spectrum, it is determined that similar contamination is coming from NTU's leaching pools, the site could be expanded.

cc: S. Ervolina